AFP American Free Press
Volume VI #17 April 24, 2006 americanfreepress.net

The Uncensored Passion of Christ

By Michael Collins Piper

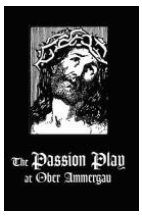
You've heard about the "controversial" Passion Play of Oberammergau, which inspired Mel Gibson's blockbuster film, ***The Passion of the Christ***. Now, the uncensored and traditional rendition of the Passion Play is available in a beautiful new volume that preserves a relic of Christian history that so many enemies of Christianity would love to see buried forever.

This volume is a early 20th century English-language descriptive account of the Passion Play at Oberammergau as compiled in 1910.

There is nothing like it available anywhere else.

UNADULTERATED

It's like reading a thrilling, colorful and epic novel.



At right, the cover of *The Passion Play at Oberammergau* from the National Institute for Christian Solidarity — an uncensored account of the Passion Play before the ADL had it altered to meet its "political correctness" standards.

Not only does this rendition of the play accurately reflect the traditional script of the play, but it also incorporates verbal imagery to describe what is happening in the play itself.

This volume — the traditional, uncensored rendition of the Passion Play — survives as a record of what was and what is: the Passion of the Christ that is so central to the Christian faith.

In fact, this volume is actually a more accurate rendition of the original Passion Play as it was presented from its original offering in 1634 and up until the 1980 presentation. In 1980, under pressure from Jewish critics, revisions were made in the play, laying the groundwork for additional changes in 1990 and in the "new" — even more censored — version in 2000.

The history of the play itself is quite remarkable. Presented by the townspeople of Oberammergau, a small community in Bavaria in southwestern Germany, a town of hardly more than 5,000 souls, it has been staged 40 times — every ten years (with multiple presentations on a periodic basis over several months) — since its premier on Pentecost in the year 1634.

Here's how it began: In the middle of the Thirty Years War, after months of suffering and death from the plague, the Oberammergauers swore an oath that they would perform the "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years. At Pentecost 1634, they fulfilled their pledge for the first time on a stage in a cemetery — above the fresh graves of the plague victims.

The production of the play became a major project for the entire village, young and old alike involved. The villagers spent vast time and energy building sets, preparing elaborate historic costumes, rehearsing their parts, making the Passion Play a community event in the grandest sense of the word: the play has had the proverbial "cast of thousands," with as many as 2,200 people participating— almost half the people of Oberammergau.

Some who started out playing sideline roles ultimately came to play major parts themselves. Some "passed down" particular roles from father to son and mother to daughter. Every man wearing a beard in the play had to have a real beard. Participants went to great efforts to maintain their beards in preparation for the play.

As years went by, word about the play spread across Europe. Growing numbers came — almost as a pilgrimage — every time the play was presented. By the late 19th century, audience members came from around the globe. The Passion Play was emerging as a legend in its own time.

However, as the 20th century dawned, the steadfast commitment of the Oberammergauers was confronted by outsiders with an agenda all their own. Virtually all of the opposition to the Passion Play came from the outspoken leadership of Jewish circles, particularly in the United States. These critics of the Passion Play worked relentlessly to defame it.

The six hour play was last presented in 2000. The next scheduled presentations will be in the 2010 — unless, of course, the play's critics — including Abe Foxman's ADL — finally succeed in shutting it down altogether. In recent decades as many as 500,000 people in total have attended the various presentations, some 5,000 people per presentation — clearly no small venture.

This is your opportunity to have the Passion Play as part of your library. Few copies of this item are available. Reserve yours today.

To order your copy of ***The Passion Play at Oberammergau***, send your check or money order for $25 (two copies are $40) to NICS, P.O. Box 99, Amissville, VA 20106. There is no charge for S&H. AFP is allowing NICS to use its toll free number for ordering of this book. You may charge your order to Visa or MasterCard by calling 1-888-699-NEWS.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

(Issue #17, April 24, 2006, **American Free Press**)